

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION

Saturday, June 8. 1706.

I Should not have interrupted my need-ful, and I hope useful Observations on the Subject of the War, and the present Glorious Successes of our Armies abroad, but on an extraordinary Account, and a particular, which I doubt not may be as publickly useful in its Degree, as the other, both to warn the innocent from falling into the Dangers, which Avarice and unnatural Tempers may prepare for them; and a little to caution Persons inclin'd to the same Crimes, that they may avoid the Sin and Shame together.

I confess, I am sorry to see, there are such Crimes and such People to be found in a Christian Country, where Justice and Liberty are tenderly nourish'd, and carefully protected; but I cannot but think my self something oblig'd, to make a Fact attended with such black and barbarous Circumstan-

ces, as publick as possible, in order to expose the Crime; as to the Persons I am equally unconcern'd, and unknown to both Plaintiffs and Defendants; I shall single no body out, and where the Fact does it for me, I shall be as far from a partial Concealment; they that have put their Hands to this ill a Work, industriously expose themselves, and it is not in my Power to conceal it.

As to the Truth of the Fact, I have only this to say, it is plain and open; every thing has been attested in a Court of Justice already; I have Authentick Vouchers to every Article, and unquestion'd Authority for the Fact, the substance of which is contain'd in the following Letter; whose Original and Authors are not ashamed or afraid to be seen by any body that desire it.

Mr.

Mr. REVIEW.

YOU have all along profess'd to be impartial in your Censures of things vicious and scandalous ; and, that without Respect of Persons you will speak all Sorts of needful Truths, to which you have set your Hand in the Introduction to your Volumes of the Review.

We herewith send you a true History of one of the most villainous and most barbarous Actions, that has ever been heard of in a Protestant Country ; and which we doubt not will fill you with Detestation at the Writing, and every honest Christian with like Abhorrence at the Reading.

It is aggravated with unusual Circumstances, and we cannot without some Honour let you know, that this black Scene has been acted by an own Mother and two Sons, upon her own Daughter and their own Sister ; whose unnatural Proceedings we leave to your Censure, and come to the Fact.

A certain Citizen of good Character and Repute, and a long Trader in London, dy'd about six Years since, — and being possess'd of a very good Estate ; after providing for his Widow and two Sons, about 2800 l. in Money came to his youngest Daughter, besides other demands yet undetermin'd.

This young Lady being of Age to take care of her self, and particularly sensible enough to discern, that her Mother and both her Brothers used her unkindly ; and not at all backward to provide for her own Quiet, soon after her Fathers Death, took care to remove out of their Family ; and that she might not be at all at their Mercy, took Care also to secure her Estate ; which she had no small reason to suspect, they at least grudg'd her the Enjoyment of, if they had no ill Design upon the thing it self.

These, you will readily agree, were but mean Discoveries of a Person not capable to govern her self, — and which add something to the Desperation of the following Attempt.

Having remov'd from her Mother, and demanded and receiv'd Part of her Portion of her Fathers Estate from her eldest Brother, who was Executor ; her next Care was to secure her Money, which she had considerably improv'd, so as she might not only have it safe, but improving ; and to this End she committed it to the Care of a Relation to her by Marriage, and an eminent Tradesman of this City ; who having, as it may be supposed, no great occasion to borrow, was not very willing to allow Interest for it, — but was at last perswaded to give a Note under his Hand for it, payable at 12 Months at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Interest.

The young Gentlewoman had some Uneasiness upon her, about her Money lying thus ; and after some time mov'd her Friend to give her a Bond for it, which he frequently put her off from, and delay'd, but at last, she appearing very much dissatisfied, told him very plainly, she would have a Bond for the Money, or take her Money out of his Hands ; at which, she says, his Answer was, *very well, Miss, I'll secure you for that*, which since has been most effectually perform'd, whether by that Gentleman's Concurrence or not, we do not determine ; We hope he has known better. — Time will discover these things, as the Law takes its Course.

It was not long after these things, when the following Method was taken with this young Gentlewoman ; whether to secure her Money, and take care of her, as had been promised, the World may judge.

About 3 Months since, the two Brothers of this young Gentlewoman, consulting with a certain known Attorney related to the Person, who had her Money, what Measures to take with her ; were advised, as we suppose, to petition the Lord Keeper for a Commission of Lunacy against her ; and that it might be the better obtain'd, they join HER OWN MOTHER in the horrid Attempt, and she signs the said Petition.

What

What the Meaning of such a Petition was, we need not inform you, nor how by this Power, they would not only have her effectually in their own keeping, but her Estate also; allowing her perhaps 10 or 20 *l. per Ann.* to be maintain'd as a Lunatick.

To bring this to pass, great Rewards were given, *as we are inform'd*, for Assistants from *Bedlam*, and from a certain infamous Apothecary, but a pretended Doctor for Lunaticks, to get her prov'd a Lunatick, and manag'd as such.

The Attorney aforesaid being employ'd in this Matter, did, upon sundry false Allegations, obtain a Commission of Lunacy against her, himself being nam'd one of the Commissioners, the Proceedings of which were as strange as the other; for they got a Jury, who brought her in, or found her, *as they call it*, a Lunatick, without ever seeing, examining, or questioning her, *Viz Voce*, which they ought to have done, and which some of them may yet live to answer for; — and one of the Pretences made use of to find Men so blind, as this comes to, *or to make them so*, was, — that they made some People, who either did, or pretended to belong to her, to acquaint the said Jury, that she was so *raving Mad*, they could by no means bring her to them. — How they prevail'd upon the Jury to give their Verdict, or make a Conclusion without offering to go themselves to see her, if she could not be brought to them, we cannot account for. THEY MUST.

All this while the Gentlewoman was quiet, and innocently thinking of any thing, rather than what was contriving for her; but liv'd privately retir'd and very frugal, having sav'd near 600 *l.* in five Year, out of the Income of her Estate.

The Design being fully ripe, and compleated by the rash Verdict of the Jury aforesaid, the rest of the Scene is all Violence and Fury, for these People having provided proper Instruments, come up Stairs to this Gentlewoman into her Chamber, on some frivolous Pretences, the Time unusually late, and on a *Satur-*

day Night; they had to ~~about~~ ^{assist} them, provided two Women and one Man; the Man, as we are since inform'd, a Door-Keeper in *Bedlam*, and one of the Women, a Nurse in a Mad-house.

These coming into her Chamber, seize upon her in a most barbarous manner, hand-cuff her Hands behind her with Irons; bound her Legs together with Cords, and attempted to thrust a Handkerchief or Cloth into her Mouth; and in this cruel manner carried her away by Force, put her into a Coach, and hurried her to one of our private *Bedlams*, putting her into the Hands of the aforesaid infamous Apothecary; of whom the World will hear more hereafter.

In this House, she continued about 6 or 7 Weeks under the most horrid Treatment that ever was heard of, by his express Command, and often in his Presence, and we want Words to express it to you; but the farther Particulars are preparing for the World, and to which we refer you.

It may suffice to tell you for the present, they kept her bound Hand and Foot in her Bed, such a one as it was, and ty'd to the Bed Post for several Days, reduc'd to strange Extremity, beat and pinch'd her by cruel and barbarous Wretches call'd Nurses, and forc'd nauseous Draughts down her Throat, *which they call'd Physick*; and which she, being apprehensive they design'd her Destruction, and might poison her, *refus'd*; but they forc'd her Mouth open with Iron Instruments, and pour'd into her, what they thought fit, wounding her very much with their Violences and Inhumanities.

In this horrid Condition, and under this most Villianous Treatment, they kept her about seven Weeks; no body, but whom that Apothecary permitted, being suffer'd to come near her.

But at last some Neighbours, where she had lodg'd, and who us'd to visit her, missing her at her lodging, and having providentially gain'd some Hints of her Condition, were mov'd in meer Pity and Compassion to enquire into her Circumstances.

stances; and having learn'd enough to fill them with Abhorrence of the Matter, in meer Charity, and without any Design, but to redeem her out of such a miserable Condition, they apply'd themselves to us, who give you this Account; who being mov'd with the like Commiseration and Charity, immediately caus'd a Petition to be deliver'd to my Lord Keeper, for leave to visit the poor Gentlewoman, and enquire into her Circumstances, Health, and Understanding.

Upon this Enquiry made by proper Persons, and such as were no way aw'd by the Threatnings of her Brothers, and their Accomplices, tho' they were very free with their Language and Insults, they found the young Woman of a perfectly sound Mind and Memory, horribly abus'd and deeply afflicted at her Misfortune; but clear in her Judgment, compos'd in her Mind, and of good Understanding.

Whereupon a Petition was immediately drawn in her Name to my Lord Keeper, praying, that she might be brought before his Lordship in order to be examin'd, whether she ought to be treated as a Lunatick, or no?

Upon this Petition, an Order was obtain'd for her to attend, which she accordingly did; and *in short*, my Lord-Keeper was so full satisfied in all the Particulars aforesaid, and of her being no Lunatick, that his Lordship was pleas'd to express himself with the utmost Derefestation and Abhorrence of such villainous Proceedings, order'd the Commission of Lunacy to be immediately superseeded, and all Proceedings thereon to be dissolv'd and made void; for it is to be observ'd, that the Brothers and Mother of this young Woman had obtain'd with their Commission of Lunacy, an order to have the Guardianship of the Lunatick committed to them, as also the Possession of her Estate.

We have given you this Account, that you may do Justice to the injur'd Person; and as we are ready to make good every Article of it upon any occasion; so we assure you and all the World, that a full and particular Account historically stated of this whole Matter, is preparing for your View, in which we shall endeavour to give them their Due, and in which all the Affidavits, Petitions, Orders, Pleadings and Defences shall be at large set down in Justification of this which is but an Abridgment.

In the mean time, we hope, you cannot refuse to let the World have the Cognizance of this Draught, which we are at any time ready to justify and make out.

Your humble Servants,

L. and P.

Truly this is a sad Account, and I am sorry to see who are concern'd in it; however as I have nothing to do with the Persons, I have chosen to leave out all Names on every side, being very willing to Expose the Thing, and spare the People on all such occasions; I would advise the Persons concern'd, if possible to make such Satisfaction for this unhappy Affair, as to prevent their farther Keproach.

As for the Doctor, or pretended Curer of Madnefs; I know no greater Grievance in the present distribution of Civil Authority, than that such People as those, are not brought under some publick Regulation, and as I have a Scheme for reducing them from what they are, to what they ought to be, which I purpose to lay before the ensuing Parliament; I refer them to consider, whether they ought not to behave themselves so, as that the Justice of the Nation, may be content to Reform their Profession, without Treating them as Criminals.